

The Healing Art in China

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THE HEALING ART IN CHINA

MEDICAL work in China is a providential method of opening new regions and fields for the gospel. The medical missionary follows the example of the Master, who went everywhere teaching and healing the sick. The work combines the best features



THE LAME, THE HALT, AND THE BLIND AT MARTYRS'
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CHANGLI, NORTH CHINA

of practical Christianity and Christian humanitarianism, for it relieves suffering in a land where the suffering of the people continually fills one with compassion. Medical work has proved the most effective means of disarming prejudice, conquering hostility,



HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN AT NANKING

certain money from the United States. As the patients in our hospitals are your own people, perhaps you will help us." The official took the subscription paper, and answered: "I am not a Christian, but leave your paper here and I'll raise the money for you. We all believe in your medical work." And he raised the money.

A certain city of forty thousand inhabitants in the Anhwei Province was exceedingly hostile

and opening doors. Chinese Christians have been able to point hostile persons to man after man, woman after woman, child after child, whose life has been saved by our missionary physicians when the Chinese had abandoned the patient to death; and no Confucianist or Buddhist in China will speak against such humanitarian service.

In the city of Taian, Shantung Province, the presiding elder went to one of the leading officials and said: "I have failed to get



THREE PATIENTS AT THE CHUNGKING HOSPITAL

to Christianity, and no missionary had been able to enter it. A woman from this place went to our hospital in Wuhu, and was cured of a terrible malady. She went back, proclaiming what had been done for her body and for her soul, and now there is a flourishing work in that city. Thus the medical missionary is the "John Baptist" of this enterprise.



UNBINDING A BOUND FOOT AT HINGHUA

Medical work not only prepares the way for the gospel; it is directly evangelistic. In connection with every dispensary there is a chapel, where the patients, while waiting to be treated, are told why the missionary has come to China, and thus they learn of Jesus Christ, of his love for men, and of the salvation which he brings. Ten to twenty thousand persons are treated annually at the dispensaries of each of our hospitals, and these are reached with the gospel. Religious meetings are held for the in-patients



THE HOPKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PEKING



THE HOSPITAL AT CHENTU, WEST CHINA



THE HOSPITAL AT YENPING, SOUTHERN CHINA



WARD SCENE, PHILANDER SMITH HOSPITAL AT NANKING



IN THE OPERATING ROOM

and the aim of the hospital physicians in visiting, and in country work, is to dispel the terrible malady from which the soul suffers through sin, as well as to heal the body.

At the Methodist Hospital at Kucheng, Fukien Province, a blind man one day appeared, one of the leading and well-known gamblers of the city. He had lost his eyesight through his gambling habits and late hours. He was successfully treated and his eyesight was restored. He then was led to repent of his sins, and ever since has been a devoted Christian. He has gone from place to place telling the story of his past life and of his

present salvation; and although he has been a Christian only six or seven years, thousands have already heard the gospel from his lips, and many have been saved through his consecrated efforts. Thus does the hospital work continually win souls for the Master.

But our twenty hospitals do even more than relieve 150,000 to 200,000 sick people each year, and open the way for the gospel to lead hundreds to Christ. They are introducing Western medical science among over 400,000,000 people. While the prevailing medical practice in China, after age-long experiment, has stumbled upon a few simple remedies, nevertheless it rests upon the grossest spiritualism. Diseases are attributed to evil spirits which have entered into and are tormenting the body; and the



NURSES AT SINGIU, SOUTHERN CHINA

Chinese practitioner attempts to drive out these diseases by making a horrible din in the sick room, by giving nauseating drugs, by sticking needles into the body of the patient, and by cutting or burning it. Such superstitions disappear before the Christian



DR. GEORGE A. STUART AND MEDICAL GRADUATES AT NANKING

physician, as darkness disappears before the sun. Christian hospitals are the pioneers of Western humanitarian science, and they are rapidly transforming medical practice among 400,000,000 human beings.

The medical work is established at our chief stations. Generally a hospital is built which accommodates in-patients, and at which there is a daily dispensary. Occasional visits are made to city patients by the physicians, and, where possible, medical evangelistic trips are made into the country, where the sick are treated in their own villages.

Medical missionary work affords a unique opportunity at the present time for reaching all classes of society; it also links Christianity with the best that Western science has to offer and thus gives it prestige among the Chinese. So thoroughly are the higher class Chinese coming to recognize the value of medical work that at some cities, such as Antau and Nanchang, they are offering to build hospitals for our church if we will supply the physicians. Here is a splendid opportunity to do the Master's

work in China today.

The present lack of Chinese hospitals equipped for modern medical practice makes our opportunity one that can be grasped by a smaller outlay of money than will be possible a few years hence. Because of the advance which medical science has made in Japan it is now impossible to establish a hospital there that will command respect unless twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars be expended at the beginning. In China now



HOSPITAL STAFF AT YENPING

one can be planted for five thousand dollars. What a vast opportunity! For such a moderate sum pagan practice can be overthrown among millions of people and the gates of the kingdom of God pushed open for the entrance of the Great Physician.

The cost of maintaining a bed in a hospital in China varies according to the location of the hospital and also with respect to the differing conditions of patients. Sick Chinese who do not require special diet, prefer to provide their food while in the hospital, but when a special diet is necessary, the cost of maintaining the patient is greatly increased, because many articles, such as proper milk and other foodstuffs, which the physician must prescribe, can be obtained only by importing them. Beds can be supported in the hospitals at Yenping, Kucheng, Nanking, Wuhu, Peking, Changli, Chungking, and Chentu, at from \$25 to \$150 each a year.

Write to Dr. F. D. Gamewell, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York city, for any special information desired concerning medical mission work in China.



